Joseph Ficklin to Andrew Jackson, February 16, 1829, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JOSEPH FICKLIN TO JACKSON.

Lexington, Ky. , February 16, 1829.

. . . . This conversation occured as follows and you may recollect the circumstances when repeated.1 On the 3 of March 1819 when the members of congress were returning after dinner to close the session you were standing near the house with Col Kemper, other company having just left you as I came up and Joined in the conversation; in a few moments Commodore Decator joined and remarked to you that he would have delayed the Launch of a 74 had he understood you would have returned from new york as soon. you Observd in reply that your return was unexpected, that the investigation of your public conduct gave you no concern, it was what congress had aright to do and you should never complain of the exercise of that right but that your private character was another matter and you should attend to it. you spoke freely of Mr Epps for the part he took at so late an hour after Mr. Forsythe had left the committee for his appointment to Spain2 but in all this long conversation not a threat was uttered by you against any member of congress nor was the manner of Comd. Decator any other but of the most friendly Character. Col Kemper and myself remained untill you and Commodore Decator walked away together.

1 One of the charges brought against Jackson was that, about the time of Lacock's report, February, 1819, he went to the Senate chamber to attack Eppes, but was restrained by Commodore Decatur, who, when Jackson became excited, swore, in reply, that Jackson should pass only by going over his dead body.

2 John Forsyth resigned from the Senate Feb. 15, 1819.

I do not recollect to have seen you untill the next day at your lodgings at [*mut.*] The subject was frequently spoken of between Col Kemper and myself and the whole occurrence is as fresh in my mind as if it had taken place yesterday.

Very respectfully